

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

As image data have come to be used in large volumes in recent years, statistical calculation processing of restored
5 and sampled image data often suffers a shortage of memory capacity. In acquiring a feature amount of an image to automatically correct image data, where high-speed processing is preferred, it is judged whether the image data contain thumbnail data (step 108) and, when there are thumbnail data,
10 "thumbnail" is set on a sampling flag (step 110) to secure a buffer for developing the thumbnail data (step 116 and step 120), the thumbnail data are developed in the buffer, and all the pixels are subjected to statistical calculation (step 126 through step 132), resulting in faster processing than where
15 the original image data are developed and sampled.